

Leader of His Race

(Continued from page 1.)

Treasurer—Horace G. Jackson, Lansing.

General secretary—A. A. Owens, Detroit.

Recording secretary—W. R. Roberts, South Haven.

Chairman executive committee—Thomas W. Stewart, Kalamazoo.

The committee on resolutions presented an address to the country, which was enthusiastically adopted.

The reports of several committees concluded the business of the afternoon session.

From 5 until 7 o'clock a banquet and supper was served under the management of the temporary State committee in the Auditorium banquet hall, which was prettily decorated with flags, palms and bunting. Over 500 plates were laid.

THE BANQUET PROGRAM.

At 8 o'clock the event of the convention opened. The ball room of the building was converted into an assembly room, filled with chairs and a platform prettily decorated for the speakers. Every seat was occupied when the program opened with an in-



DR. J. W. AMES,

Ex-member of the Michigan Legislature and a leading physician at Detroit, Mich.

vocation by the Rev. S. Henri Browne, of Adrian. The Hon. James W. Ames, of Detroit, acted as toastmaster. The seventh number on the program and the feature of the entertainment was an address by the Hon. Judson W. Lyons, of Washington, D. C. Mr. Lyons spoke upon "Emancipation Justified," and said in part:

"It is a wise and thoughtful statesmanship which dignified labor, and made holy one day in the year to its cause. Labor is not the balance of power concealed back of the throne holding its own by tact, diplomacy and the wisdom of its suggestions. In America it is the throne itself, wielding when aroused and united for action, a force and influence that is all commending to its potency.

"Comprehending within its folds a large majority of its citizens, alert and aggressive in its aggravated activities, it is incumbent on labor in a measure greater than any other organized body to be just in its purposes and wise in its conclusions. The laborer is worthy of his hire, is one of the best remembered expressions of

Holy Writ, and should be the motto of organized labor wherever it exists. But if that is the motto then as the ancients believed about justice, you must be absolutely blind in your actions.

"Remembering that the colored citizen, the colored bread winner, who may be your fellow toiler is entitled to consideration and fair play in his endeavor to provide comforts for his family, and carry higher and higher the commercial supremacy of his country, it is your bounded obligation to treat him with justice and equity as becomes a co-laborer in a great enterprise.

"To proscribe him and set bounds and limitations to his honest and honorable efforts, is unjust to him and a reflection upon you. Equal and exact justice to all and in all things, irrespective of races, creed or color, will do more for organized labor in one year, than unwise discrimination and thoughtless outbreaks of violence will in twenty. But it is not my purpose to speak on labor in general; but rather on that race of whom 90 per cent are private soldiers in your ranks, a greater percentage than is furnished by any other race, and who eating bread COL AM FIVE eytsdop5nelerat-te from the sweat of their brow for barely one generation, have made such progress in all lines as to reasonably justify every sacrifice made for their liberty and enfranchisement."

Mr. Lyons, after a careful analysis of the agricultural statistics of the South, showed that the colored workers in the field produces annually \$911,786,182.75, "a sum equal to \$11.09 for every inhabitant of this country, or \$91.73 per capita for every individual of the race."

The speaker then spoke of the progress made by the colored race—that it had acquired "130,000 farms worth \$400,000,000. Homes valued at \$325,000,000, and personal property worth \$165,000,000, making a grand total of \$890,000,000, thus presenting to the world for his first generation of freedom per capita wealth of \$89 for every man, woman and child of the race."

The speaker then contrasted this remarkable showing with the condition of the Russian peasantry, quoting from Henry Norman and Prince Kropotkin, showing how completely the colored man had outstripped the Russian in all the elements of progress.

In discussing the suffrage enactments at the South he said: "The apostles of reaction no longer disguise their purpose in making these so-called constitutions, by phrases so framed as to mislead the weary and confuse the public as to their intention. They proclaim from the housetop that it is not the illiteracy and vice they would discourage, nor wealth and character they would encourage; but that they seek to change the form of this civilization, this republic, from a government of all races, who are citizens and worthy of the ballot, to an aristocracy based on race, and perchance after a little while it will be only a portion of that race; for just so certain as the poor whites in the South were practically eliminated before the war from any appreciable influential part in the government, they will as certainly be wiped from the equation now, if this new propaganda succeeds.

"The emancipation of the black man gave them a voice as freemen, and however unpalatable this fact may be to them—Abraham Lincoln was only a degree less their benefactor than the former."

The speaker also showed that in the use of the ballot, the colored man had stood for the best interest of the country on every great occasion that had presented itself since the emancipation—and indeed had shown a wisdom and conservatism at the very inception of his career as a citizen in the making of laws to readmit and readjust the seceded States, which would have done credit to any people with ten centuries of freedom before them.

He pointed out the inconsistency of permitting any one portion of the organic law of the land to be repealed with impunity, and referred pointedly to the great peril to republican constitutions, should the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments stand unvindicated from the assaults which had been made upon them.

OTHER ADDRESSES.

Oscar W. Baker, a prominent colored lawyer of Bay City, spoke upon "The Rise of a Down-Trodden Race." He spoke of the gradual rise of America from an insignificant country to the most wonderful of nations. He

MR. W. ALLISON SWEENEY,
Editor, Oraor and Literateur, Chicago, Ill.

spoke of the progress of the Afro-American race as phenomenal. From the old slave days in the South he traced the progress of the Negroes to the present day, cleverly showing what education and combined patience was doing for the race. In closing he said: "Let us rejoice in the grand achievement of our race. Let the work of education and enlightenment go forward. Let us be fully prepared for the places of distinction. Our proper duty is improvement."

"President Roosevelt and His Policy of Justice," was the subject of a short talk by John A. Dungill, of South Haven. Mr. Dungill paid a marked tribute to President Roosevelt and his policy toward the colored race and spoke of him as a man who has the superb moral courage to speak his convictions.

Horace G. Jackson, the next speaker, spoke upon "Race Riots and Lynchings in the North." Mr. Jackson did not defend his countrymen or especially center his efforts on mob violence. He made a strong plea that every man, black or white, be given

a fair and just trial, and if he be found guilty, be punished according to law. He believes the laws are adequate to cope with any emergency if enforced.

"The Many Possibilities of the Negro" were set forth by W. Allison Sweeney, of Chicago. He spoke of the rapid change in public sentiment concerning the Negro problem in the last fifty years; and the ability of the black man to accomplish any aim attempted as well as the white man; and closed by ridiculing the idea that the Negro was prevented from attaining prominence politically because his color was not white.

Albert H. Roberts, of Chicago, gave the closing address and one of the best, "The Duty of the Negro to America," was his subject and was ably treated. He spoke of what the colored men had to be thankful for; of the many advantages that were becoming theirs, and of the steady advancement it was their duty to make. In closing, he said: "Let the colored man be true to himself and while he is learning and doing his duty let the white man learn to do his duty. Let him do it by removing every barrier that stands in the way of opportunity of the Negro."

During the entertainment an excellent musical program was rendered by Finney's orchestra, of Detroit. A grand assembly ball followed the conclusion of the entertainment program.

DRESS MAKING ACADEMY.

The de Lam Orton Famous French Perfection Tailor System, Mme. J. A. Smallwood, sole agent, 1513 Madison street, northwest.

Morning class from 9 a. m. to 1 p. m. Afternoon class 2 to 5 p. m. daily. Evenings from 7:30 to 10 o'clock. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, dressmakers and ladies who wish to do their own dress-making.

WANTED.—To learn the wonderful De Lam Orton French Perfection Tailor System. Seamless Basques without one inch of visible seam, in lining or goods, not even on the shoulder. Successful dressmaking requires as much earnest progressive study as successful work in any profession. No detail is too small to be looked after. We teach you to make dresses with or without seam and guarantee perfect fits, and complete your course with a diploma.

If you have a spare room that you would like rent to desirable parties, advertise them in The Colored American.

SUMMER RESORTS.

Please Help Me Find My Brother

Sauk Joyce was sold in Mecklenburg, Virginia several years before the civil war, to Cunningham a Negro trader. His mother Willie, was a slave on the Joyce plantation. He had one sister Betty who is very anxious to find him. Any information will be gladly received.

Mrs. BETTY REYNOLDS.
44 Parker street, Atlanta, Ga.

WANTED

For the Famous Troubadours Company,

Three Chorus Girls, with strong Soprano voices. Must be good looking, good dressers on and off the Stage. State salary expected; we pay railroad and Hotel expenses. The season of 1903-04, beginning Sept. 15th. Address all communications to E. W. Dale, Cape May City, N. J.